



## Georgia Girls State Bulletin

UPDATED: 01/25/26

**Georgia Girls State will be held in Valdosta, Georgia at Valdosta State University June 7-12, 2026**

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Interest in government, leadership, citizenship, honesty, scholarship, character, and completion of their junior year in high school.

**ORIENTATION:** Orientation should be a part of your Girls State plan so that the girls and their parents understand in advance what to expect upon arrival. Please call on a staff member or former citizen in your area to help with your orientation if help is needed. A virtual online orientation will be announced in early May if your District is unable to host an in-person event.

**PUBLICITY:** Unit chairmen, be sure to contact local media for coverage as soon as your delegates have been selected. Many newspapers are willing to publish pictures and short articles about the program. Invite delegates to a unit meeting after the session to report to the unit.

**FEES:** Checks must be made out to Georgia Girls State and mailed to the Department Headquarters. **Send the fee of \$350.00** per girl to the American Legion Auxiliary Department Headquarters, 3035 Mt. Zion Road, Stockbridge, GA 30281 **no later than May 1, 2026**. Call the director for late payments of fees. Please DO NOT hold your unit check for fees just to make sure your girls are attending before paying. This really hurts our program. Any money that is sent in helps Georgia Girls State even if your girls don't attend. No money is paid to the University until after Girls State. We only pay for those attending. If your girl backs out at the last minute, there are other worthy girls that the money can cover. It can also be a donation to the program to help cover other costs. We have expenses to pay before the session begins, so please do not hold the fees. Parents nor family members should not pay the fee for their daughter.

**DISTRICTS:** Each district is to elect a counselor and pay a \$350.00 counselor fee. Please notify the director upon the election and have the counselor send the director a resume. Even if your district doesn't elect a counselor, the fee is still to be paid. I need counselors: Please contact me if interested!!

### **APPLICATION PROCESS (REVISED):**

Starting in 2026, Georgia Girls State will use an online camp management system, Camp Wise, for all applications. The application process consists of four steps and involves Units/Posts, students, and schools.

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#### **STEP 1: UNIT / POST SETUP**

*(Completed by sponsoring Units or Posts)*

- Visit the Georgia Girls State website and select the Unit/Post Information button located in the top navigation bar.
- On the left side of the page, click Step 1: Unit/Post Information.
- Complete the online form to enter your Unit/Post information for the Camp Wise system.
  - This step only needs to be completed once per application cycle (per year).
  - All Units/Posts should complete this step no later than February 15, 2026.
- Within one week of submitting the form, the Unit/Post contact will receive an email containing:
  - A unique Unit Access Code

- o Instructions to share with applicants
- o Login credentials to monitor applicant status
- o Information on accessing the application system

**Note: Each Unit/Post receives unique access codes that may not be shared between students or Units.**

- After a Unit/Post has fully vetted a student and confirmed her eligibility, provided the Unit Access Code to the student.
  - o A [Pre-Application Form](#) is available for Unit/Post use.
  - o The tear-off section (at the bottom) includes the website address and a space to write the Unit Access Code.
  - o The access code may also be shared verbally, by email, or by text.
  - o The Pre-Application Form is for Unit/Post records only and does not need to be submitted.
- Units/Posts may log into the system at any time to check the status of their students' applications. Instructions on the website under 'Unit Information.'

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## STEP 2: STUDENT APPLICATIONS

*(Application portal opens March 1, 2026)*

- The application portal opens on March 1, 2026.
- Students should visit the Georgia Girls State website and click Students & Parents/Guardians in the top navigation bar.
  - o That page includes detailed instructions and a link to the online application.
- Students must have a valid Unit Access Code to proceed beyond the "Create Account" step.
- Students must:
  - o Use a non-school email address
  - o Provide their school's name
  - o Enter the name, email address, and phone number of a school official (e.g., Counselor or JROTC instructor)
- The student application and parent/guardian sections are completed within the same portal (unlike prior years).
- Once both the student and parent/guardian sections are completed:
  - o The student will receive a confirmation email stating the application is complete.
  - o The student will be notified once their school verifies eligibility.
  - o The sponsoring Unit/Post will receive the same notifications.

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## STEP 3: SCHOOL VERIFICATION

*(Completed by the student's high school)*

- After the student submits her completed application, the designated high school will receive an email.
- The email will include a link for the school to complete the Student Verification portion of the process.

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## STEP 4: COMPLETED REGISTRATION

- Once both the application and school verification are complete:
  - o The student will receive an email confirming her registration and acceptance as a Future Citizen of Georgia Girls State.
  - o This email will include instructions to log back into the application portal.
- In the portal, students will have access to important preparation materials, including:
  - o Packing list
  - o Bill-writing instructions
  - o Bill templates
  - o General program information

- Sponsoring Units/Posts will receive an email confirming registration completion and providing instructions for submitting payment.
  - o Units/Posts should include the [Girls State Payment form](#) with their payment.

**WEBSITE:** [www.georgiagirlsstate.org](http://www.georgiagirlsstate.org) Information for Units and Future Citizens.

**EMAIL:**

- **Georgia Girls State email:** [georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com) for the director, Deedy Harrell
- **Technical Support email:** [georgiagirlsstate.tech@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate.tech@gmail.com)

**CONTACT NUMBERS:**

**Director - Deedy Harrell: 770-337-7997 Call or text**

Assistant Director, Gabriele Barnett: Cell 706-951-3906 (call or text) or email:

[barnettgabriele@hotmail.com](mailto:barnettgabriele@hotmail.com)

Registrar: Cynthia Orms: (478) 232-4831 [georgiagirlsstate.tech@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate.tech@gmail.com)

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**May 1, 2026:** Checks for \$350.00 per girl due to the Department Headquarters.

**May 1, 2026:** Application deadline.

**June 7, 2026:** Arrival at Girls State between 1:00 and 3:00 PM

**June 12, 2026:** Graduation at 8:45 AM and departure no later than 1:00 PM

Delays cause your girls to have difficulty in getting prepared for the program. If you find out that a girl is not attending after completing an application, please let us know. We make phone calls to all no shows, and it will help us if we can limit the number of calls necessary. Let us know even up to the last day.

**Please join the Girls State Booster Club!!** Call Pat Morgan (229) 561-4070 for details.

Deedy Harrell, Director

[georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:georgiagirlsstate@gmail.com)

770-337-7997